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PATENT
Application No. 10/779,989
Atty Dkt. No. STRR/0004.C1 - 7853.0006Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-34 (Previously Cancelled).

35. (Currently Amended) A disposable ampoule opener in combination with an ampoule, ~~wherein the ampoule including an elongated member that comprises a body, a neck portion and a tip portion, has a lower liquid portion capable of containing liquid and an upper tip portion that is narrower in diameter than the lower liquid portion, the ampoule further having a neck portion disposed between the lower liquid portion and the upper tip portion, and wherein the disposable ampoule opener comprising~~ comprises a plastic elongated housing member ~~that includes a first elongated housing member that includes a first elongated housing section and a second elongated housing section hingedly connected to the first elongated housing section, the first and second elongated housing sections having and~~ and at least one latch capable of securing the first elongated housing section to the second elongated housing section ~~to define and defining~~ and defining an inner cavity shaped to receive a portion of the ampoule, wherein the plastic elongated housing includes (a) an open housing end, (b) a closed housing end, (c) sidewalls disposed between the open housing end and the closed housing end, the sidewalls having an outer housing surface and an inner housing surface forming at least a portion of the inner cavity, wherein (d) at least one inner rib circumscribes circumscribing at least a portion of the inner housing surface proximate the open housing end; and (e) a lid secured to the housing proximate the open housing end, the lid being capable of a closed position and an open position.

36. (Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in ~~of~~ claim 35, wherein the lid includes an aperture and at least one of the ~~housing member sections~~ elongated housing sections includes a protrusion sized to fit into the aperture.

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37. (Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in of claim 35, wherein at least one of the elongated housing sections is fully or partially transparent.

38. (Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in of claim 35, wherein each of the elongated housing sections is opaque and the lid is transparent.

39. (Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in of claim 35, wherein at least one of the elongated housing sections includes ~~one~~ two or more outer ~~ribs~~ ridges.

40. (Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in of claim 35, wherein the ~~first and second elongated housing sections include plastic elongated housing~~ includes two latches capable of securing the first elongated housing section to the second elongated housing section to define the inner cavity.

41. (Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in of claim 35, wherein the lid includes a substantially planar outer surface with a raised portion having a predetermined shape.

42. (Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in of claim 35, ~~having at least one broken end of a plastic strip for connecting the ampoule opener to another disposable ampoule opener that forms a series of housing sections positioned parallel to one another~~ in which the lid is hingedly secured proximate the open housing end by a hinge that includes a first plastic hinge member and a second plastic hinge member, which are rotatable relative to one another, wherein the first plastic hinge member is stationary relative to the plastic housing and the second plastic hinge member is stationary relative to the lid.

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43. (Currently Amended) A disposable ampoule opener in combination with an ampoule, ~~wherein the ampoule including an elongated member that comprises a body, a neck portion and a tip portion,~~ has a lower liquid portion capable of containing liquid and an upper tip portion that is narrower in diameter than the lower liquid portion, the ampoule further having a neck portion disposed between the lower liquid portion and the upper tip portion, and wherein the disposable ampoule opener comprising ~~comprises~~ a plastic elongated housing member ~~that includes a first elongated housing member that includes a first elongated housing section and a second elongated housing section hingedly connected to the first elongated housing section, the first and second elongated housing sections having~~ and at least one latch capable of securing the first elongated housing section to the second elongated housing section ~~to define and defining~~ an inner cavity shaped to receive a portion of the ampoule, wherein the plastic elongated housing further includes (a) an open housing end, (b) a closed housing end, (c) sidewalls disposed between the open housing end and the closed housing end, the sidewalls having an outer housing surface and an inner housing surface forming at least a portion of the inner cavity; and (d) a lid secured to the housing proximate the open housing end, the lid being capable of a closed position and an open position, ~~the elongated member additionally including~~ and (e) a latch to mechanically secure the lid in the closed position.

44. (Currently Amended) A disposable ampoule opener in combination with an ampoule, ~~wherein the ampoule including an elongated member that comprises a body, a neck portion and a tip portion,~~ has a lower liquid portion capable of containing liquid and an upper tip portion that is narrower in diameter than the lower liquid portion, the ampoule further having a neck portion disposed between the lower liquid portion and the upper tip portion, and wherein the ampoule opener comprising ~~comprises~~ a plastic elongated housing member that: (a) includes a first elongated housing section and a second elongated housing section; (b) is capable of being in an open position or a closed position; (c) is capable of defining an inner cavity shaped to receive at least the upper tip portion of the ampoule when in the closed position; (d) has an open housing end and a closed housing end when in the closed position; (e) has sidewalls disposed between the

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open housing end and the closed housing end, the sidewalls having an outer housing surface and an inner housing surface that forms at least a portion of the inner cavity; (f) has at least one inner rib or rib section that fully or partially circumscribes at least a portion of the inner housing surface proximate the open housing end, to clamp the ampoule at the neck portion; (g) includes a lid secured to at least one of the first or second elongated housing sections proximate the housing end, the lid being capable of being in a closed or an open position.

45. (Currently Amended) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in ~~of~~ Claim 44, wherein one of the first or second elongated housing sections ~~proximate the housing end~~ has the lid secured thereto proximate the open housing end; the lid is hingedly secured; and the other of the first or second elongated housing sections ~~proximate the housing end~~ has a latch capable of securing the lid in a closed position.

46. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the plastic elongated housing is cylindrical.

47. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the plastic elongated housing comprises polypropylene.

48. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the first and second elongated housing sections are hingedly connected to one another.

49. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the first and second elongated housing sections are hingedly connected to one another at the closed housing end.

50. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the plastic elongated housing includes a latch to secure the first elongated housing

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section to the second elongated housing section when the plastic elongated housing is in a closed position.

51. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the plastic elongated housing includes two latches to secure the first elongated housing section to the second elongated housing section when the plastic elongated housing is in a closed position.

52. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the plastic elongated housing includes only a single latch to secure the first elongated housing section to the second elongated housing section, wherein the latch is located closer to the open housing end than to the closed housing end.

53. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the plastic elongated housing includes a latch to secure the first elongated housing section to the second elongated housing section, wherein the latch includes a first latch member which comprises an elongated aperture and is affixed to the first elongated housing section and a second latch member which comprises an elongated protrusion and is affixed to the second elongated housing section, and wherein the elongated protrusion is sized and shaped to fit into the elongated aperture of the first elongated housing section and hold the first and second elongated housing sections together.

54. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the lid has an outer diameter that is larger than the outer diameter of the plastic elongated housing when the first and second housing sections are in a closed position.

55. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the lid has an irregular oval shape.

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56. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the lid has a rectangular shape.

57. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the lid is hingedly connected to either the first or second elongated housing sections.

58. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the lid is hingedly connected to either of the first or second elongated housing sections by a plastic hinge that includes a first hinge surface affixed to the first or second elongated housing sections, a second hinge surface affixed to the lid and an indentation disposed between the first hinge surface and the second hinge surface, which indentation serves as an axis around which the second hinge surface can rotate such that the lid is capable of an open or closed position.

59. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the lid has an outer surface with one or more ridges.

60. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the lid has an outer surface that includes a company logo.

61. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein the housing is cylindrical and includes from 2-5 ridges on the outer surface of the housing, where such ridges circumscribe at least half of the circumference of the outer surface of the housing and where at least one half of the length of the housing is smooth and has no ridges.

62. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein a rib section is provided that is proximate the open housing end and circumscribes the inner surface of either the first or second housing sections but does not fully circumscribe the inner surface of the plastic housing.

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63. (New) The disposable ampoule opener combined with an ampoule as recited in Claim 44, wherein a first rib section is provided that is proximate the open housing end and circumscribes the inner surface of either the first or second housing sections but does not fully circumscribe the inner surface of the plastic housing; and wherein a rib is provided that is between the first rib section and the closed housing end and that circumscribes the entire inner surface of the plastic housing.